

# Welcome to the First Issue of *Strategic Studies Quarterly* (SSQ)!

*“To provide a forum for critically examining and debating warfare, strategy, national and international security, and defense policy.”*

Gen T. Michael Moseley, US Air Force chief of staff, has sponsored this journal to be a forum for Airmen, members of government, and members of academia to exchange ideas, views, and opinions about strategic matters.

The strategic environment has undergone unprecedented change in the past 20 years. The United States is presently a nation at war—a war fought on many fronts characterized by many types of battles, conflicts, and campaigns. Historically when such shifts in the strategic landscape have occurred, professional communities have sought to interpret those changes by providing new forums for understanding how strategic policies must shift in order to meet the challenges of the new environment. For example, in 1922 in the aftermath of World War I, the editors of *Foreign Affairs* wrote that “the dominant purpose is to promote the discussion of current questions of international interest and to serve as the natural medium for the expression of the best thought.” Similarly, in 1970, the editors of a new journal, *Foreign Policy*, noted that “in light of Vietnam, the basic purposes of American foreign policy demand re-examination and re-definition.”

In other words, the changes in the international context today that stem from globalization and economic competition; the collapse of the bipolar world and the rise of regional powers; trends toward increasing democratization in some areas and the opposing retreat from democratic reforms in others; the unprecedented wealth in some areas of the world compared to the hopeless poverty in others; and the challenges of energy sufficiency, environmental security, and demographic change, along with a host of other strategic concerns, will be the subjects of *Strategic Studies Quarterly*’s pages. Furthermore, our book review section will provide opportunities each quarter for our readers and contributors to evaluate the latest scholarship on the widest possible range of issues.

There are several reasons for launching a new journal at this time. *SSQ* will perform a role that existing USAF journals do not fill. It will also provide a way for strategic thinkers, policy makers, and researchers to find ways to forge relationships with each other as they exchange ideas. Finally, *SSQ* will contribute to the strategic policy development process. The perspectives provided by Airmen will characterize some of those contribu-

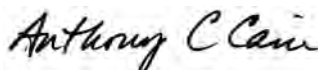
tions—but often those contributions will add to rather than derive from the unique air, space, and cyberspace perspectives that Airmen hold.

Healthy professions use professional membership organizations and journals to refine their institutions as their members exchange ideas. Those ideas and the relationships from which they spring serve as catalysts for evaluating the best alternatives for future decisions. But when professions intersect as they do at the strategic level of international security and defense policy, the exchange of ideas often becomes difficult to achieve. Certainly, military, government, and academic professionals have vehicles for interacting with one another—but adding another way for that interaction to occur through the open exchange of ideas gives opportunities for forging and strengthening relationships and connections among the three communities.

The unique strategic security concerns that military professionals contribute can inform government and academic professionals about certain tangible aspects of the policy development equation. Government leaders can communicate to the military and to academe how they view the long-term geopolitical, political, social, and domestic aspects of the strategic challenge. Academic professionals can provide multiple perspectives grounded in disciplined research techniques that can enrich the views of their colleagues in the military and in government. As these and other interactions take place, the professional communities that formulate, inform, and execute policy can learn more about each other while they also develop greater confidence in each other.

The prospect of starting a new professional journal is fraught with excitement and risk. The quality of the journal will be a reflection of the interests and the contributions of the members of the professional communities that the publication seeks to serve. As the editor, I am confident that the members of military, government, and academic communities will provide the insights that will inform and enrich perspectives that will ultimately lead to more effective international security and defense policies. I am also confident that *SSQ* will help those professionals find ways to understand the challenges our nation faces today and for the foreseeable future.

I look forward to serving as your editor and colleague as we move toward that future.



ANTHONY C. CAIN, PhD

Editor-in-Chief, *Strategic Studies Quarterly*